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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/008,512	11/08/2001	Chinami Hamatani	JP920000301US1	5391

7590 09/08/2004  
Gerald R. Woods  
IBM Corporation  
T81/503  
P.O. Box 12195  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

EXAMINER

MCCLELLAN, JAMES S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/008,512

Applicant(s)

HAMATANI, CHINAMI

Examiner

James S McClellan

Art Unit

3627



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,240,397 (hereinafter “Sachs”).

Regarding **claim 1**, Sachs discloses a method for processing e-gift certificates using a computer system or computer network, comprising the steps of: receiving, from a presenter, a request for purchasing an e-gift certificate including presenter information, recipient information, and usable amount of money (see column 4, lines 13-15; see also steps 10, 12, 14, and 16 in Figure 1); sending said e-gift certificate to a recipient (see step 18 of Figure 1); receiving from said recipient, a request for purchasing goods (see step 128 of Figure 3A); [**claim 2**] purchasing the e-gift certificate has a higher level of security than sending the e-gift certificate to a recipient (this is inherent because the e-gift certificate is sent via e-mail the credit card purchase requires access to account information); [**claim 3**] a special benefit for a specific presenter (see column 3, lines 65-67; giver is given a refund).

Art Unit: 3627

Regarding **claim 4**, Sachs discloses a system for processing e-gift certificates as described above in detail for method claim 1. **Claims 5 and 6** are rejected using a similar analysis set forth above for claims 2 and 3.

Regarding **claim 7**, Sachs discloses a computer system configured as a system for processing e-gift certificates as described above in detail for method claim 1. **Claims 8 and 9** are rejected using a similar analysis set forth above for claims 2 and 3.

Regarding **claim 10**, Sachs discloses a program embedded in a computer readable medium for processing e-gift certificates as described above in detail for method claim 1.

### *Conclusion*

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

Spector is cited of interest for disclosing a computerized system for designing and printing gift certificates.

Walker et al. is cited of interest for disclosing a method and apparatus for issuing and managing gift certificates.

Messner is cited of interest for disclosing a method for marketing and redeeming vouchers for use in online purchases.

Bell et al. is cited of interest for disclosing a method and system for cross-marketing products and services over a distributed communications network.

Art Unit: 3627

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jim McClellan whose telephone number is (703) 305-0212. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski, can be reached at (703) 308-5183.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

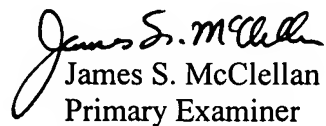
Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks  
Washington D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 (Official communications) or  
(703) 746-3516 (Informal/Draft communications).

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 7<sup>th</sup> floor receptionist.

  
James S. McClellan  
Primary Examiner  
A.U. 3627

jsm  
September 6, 2004